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DDI #0929-83  
2 February 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Unclassified Publication of Reference and Statistical Material

1. SOVA has forwarded for my review the attached paper "Soviet Gross National Product in Current Prices, 1960-1980." They propose that the paper be published under Agency seal as an unclassified paper. I am inclined to approve their request with certain conditions, but would appreciate your views.

2. Last year, when you made the decision to eliminate the publication of unclassified analytical pieces with Agency attribution, you made provision to continue producing basic unclassified reference materials and make them available to the public through the Library of Congress, the Department of Commerce, the Government Printing Office and the Federal Depository Library Program. The materials were no longer to be disseminated to the public by the Agency directly.

3. The attached paper is on the borderline between statistical/reference materials and analysis. At the same time, it is in an area where we have almost a complete monopoly on basic information because of the assets we bring to the problem and yet an area -- the Soviet economy -- where we depend upon and use significant expertise from the private sector -- especially universities. Most of the complaints that we have received about the new rule promulgated last year have been from academics in the Soviet and Chinese economic areas that depended so much on us in the past. I believe it was complaints from people in this field that prompted Anne Armstrong's letter on behalf of the PFIAB to you on this subject some months ago.

4. Although the release of the unclassified materials that we prepared for the Joint Economic Committee in the Congress caused a one day flurry in the newspapers because of the distorted interpretation by the Committee Chairman that accompanied the release, I find it not worthy that this publicity died almost instantly.

5. It seems to me that the potential gain with respect to outside specialists of use to us more than balances any publicity that might accompany the publication of this document. Because there will be no

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public acknowledgement or press release of its publication, only specialists who review the indexes and catalogues of the disseminating agencies named above will know that we have even released it. The title itself should fend off idle mischief makers and headline seekers. At the same time, I think the continued publication of this kind of work would gain us credit with the academic community, the Congress and the PFIAB.

6. I do not wish to overblow the potential gain for this release any more than the possible controversy. It is a relatively minor matter that will bring us marginal gain but one that could be useful. I recommend that we authorize the unclassified publication of this document and its dissemination through DOCEX and NTIS.

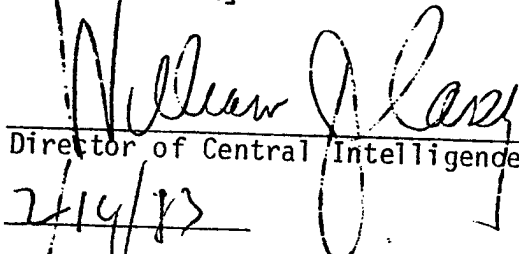
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Robert M. Gates

Attachment:  
As Stated

[All Portions of this Memo are  
classified CONFIDENTIAL]

APPROVED:

  
Director of Central Intelligence

Date


: 2/14/83

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Soviet Gross National Product in  
Current Prices, 1960-80

A Research Paper

UNCLASSIFIED

  
Econometric Analysis Division  
Office of Soviet Analysis  
February 3, 1983

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